



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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BISHOP OPPOSES PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop will vote no on HR 1, the Prescription Drug Bill. He released the following statement to explain his opposition:

“I am passionately committed to support a prescription drug benefit to help seniors. But I did not come to Congress to dismantle Medicare and this bill does just that.

“This bill does nothing to reduce the price of prescription drugs. In fact, it explicitly says that the Federal government cannot use its bargaining power to seek lower drug prices. Under this bill, Wal-Mart has more bargaining power than the Federal government: That’s just stupid.

“It’s no wonder that stock prices have skyrocketed in recent weeks for the pharmaceutical industry - this bill is a slam dunk for the drug companies.

“Seniors on Long Island know what a failed experiment Medicare Plus Choice has been for our communities, and I refuse to be a part of expanding a failed experiment nationally. It's high time that we provide seniors with a real drug benefit that they can count on, and support policies that will drive down drug prices for all Americans.

“I am appalled that after months spent behind closed doors building this mess, the leadership is trying to force this bill through before Members of Congress have the chance to read it and before seniors have the chance to understand it. Why the rush? Maybe because they know that the more details come out about this bill, the less people like it.

“I have gotten a lot of feedback from Long Island’s seniors on this bill, and the overwhelming majority of calls and letters is asking me to oppose this bill. I would like to thank everyone who has weighed in. I am very proud to stand up for Long Island’s seniors by voting no.”

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